



Michigan Association of Medical Examiners

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Honorable Senator Jim Marleau

P.O. Box 30036

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Dear Senator Marleau and members of the Senate Health Policy Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity provided to the Michigan Association of Medical Examiners to make continued comments on Senate Bill 485 sponsored by Senator Bruce Caswell. We appreciate all of the work that has been done on this legislation by Senator Caswell.

The Michigan Association of Medical Examiners supports the resurrecting of the anatomical board. The board should meet regularly, although quarterly would be burdensome. The language of the current legislation contains the same issues in which we have continued to voice concerns. The following issues remain unresolved.

1. There cannot be a time limit to notify the board of an unclaimed body as the medical examiner is required to do due diligence to ascertain the unclaimed status of the body.
2. The medical examiner will not report an unclaimed body to the board without written permission of the next-of-kin. As we discussed a referral without family approval would have wide-ranging moral and ethical concerns.
3. There is no process described for the disposition of the body should medical schools and the board decide they don't want the body.
4. There is no designation of medical examiner representation on the board.
5. Section 2913 should read: "A member of the board may receive unclaimed bodies...." To make this mandatory would be burdensome.
6. Section 2920: "A person that receives an unclaimed body for scientific use shall bear all expense incurred in the preservations..." This requires the agency to bear the cost, even when potential sources of funding are available.

7. The proposed board authority to "develop criteria, standards and procedures" is too broadly defined and unrestricted.
8. Finally, the Michigan Association of Medical Examiners stands by the current practice of unclaimed body disposition with through the County Administrators. We understand that there is a sufficient supply of bodies for educational purposes and no need to institute an additional process. The current practice appears to be working.
9. The main problem with disposition of unclaimed bodies is the unreasonable remuneration for funeral directors involve in the program.

For all the reasons noted above, the Michigan Association of Medical Examiners remains in opposition of the legislation in its current form.

Best Regards,

Jeffrey Jentzen, MD
President
Michigan Association of Medical Examiners